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NEWS NOTES

Change of command set

Defense Distribution Depot-Tobyhanna will conduct a change of command and retirement ceremony July 17 at the Landing. Defense Distribution Center Commander Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar will officiate.

Lt. Col. Yvonne MacNamara will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Michael Talley.

The change of command will be followed by a retirement ceremony for MacNamara.

Bonus program reminder

The Army has expanded its \$2K Referral Bonus program to include civilian employees, making it possible for them to earn \$2,000 while helping the Army boost enlistments.

The recruiting incentive is known as the "\$2K Referral Bonus" program for the regular Army and Army Reserve, and "Every Soldier is a Recruiter" in the National Guard. Prior to the expansion, it applied only to Soldiers and Army retirees who referred applicants who enlist, complete basic training and graduate from advanced individual training.

The bonus for referring a prospective applicant who has never served in the armed forces originated in January 2006 with a \$1,000 bonus. It was doubled in November 2006.

For guidance about the referral program, including restrictions, visit <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or call 800-223-3735, extension 6-0473.

Going...going....gone!

The Noontime Softball League will be conducting a home run derby in early July, exact date to be determined. The league runs it on the first good weather Monday in July. Individuals can use the league's wood or aluminum bats, or can bring in their own bat to use for the derby. In addition to members of the league competing, walk-ons from our depot work force are encouraged. Walk-ons should contact Jason Menago, X59968 to get on the derby list.

Employees volunteer for front-line duty

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna employees lend their skills and expertise to protecting America's freedom by sustaining jobs that support the warfighter in austere locations around the world.

Every year hundreds of volunteers join the ranks of deployed military members fighting the war on terrorism. In theater, personnel support a variety of programs, including the Counter Remote-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronics Warfare (CREW) electronic countermeasures systems, Electro-Optics/Night Vision Common Remotely Operated Weapons System and Standard Army Management Information Systems/Tier 3.

"Because of the work you do, I never feel guilty or worried that we haven't provided the best equipment and capability that we can," said Maj. Gen. Michael Mazzucchi, commanding general, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command (C-E LCMC), while visiting the depot June 7. He commended depot employees for having the "courage to volunteer to go in harm's way."

Army officials have coined the term Persistent Conflict for referring to the Global War on Terrorism, according to the general. Persistent Conflict is to be our new normal, he said, indicating that volunteers will continue to be a critical component in the success of the mission.

On any given day, about 100 Tobyhanna employees are serving in locations throughout Southwest Asia (SWA). Deployment lengths average six months.

"I know of one woman who has been out there for almost two years," said Rich Sokoloski, Forward Repair Activity project officer, Command, Control, and Computer (C-3) Systems/Avionics Directorate. He explained that she comes home for a couple months and then volunteers for another assignment.

Sokoloski and Frank Wanat recruit volunteers to work on STAMIS/Tier 3 equipment and electronic countermeasures systems, respectively. Wanat is the Electronic Warfare Systems Branch chief.

Depot personnel also support Firefinder and Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Wanat tracks more than 30 workers who install, repair, troubleshoot and help program Warlock and CREW systems at various locations in SWA. Sokoloski manages 70-80 people filling current and future assignments where workers repair computers, printers and other peripherals.

"A lot of people are eager to deploy," Sokoloski said, "and if



Robert Hagenbauch, left, helps a Soldier repair field equipment while deployed to Southwest Asia.



Lt. Col. Jorge Ondina, left, helps Katie Nolan adjust the helmet chin strap prior to a chemical biological radiological nuclear explosive drill.

someone has a background in computer repair, I'll get them out there too."

"I honestly think that 95 percent of the people who come back [from deployment] feel they've done something important," Sokoloski said. "Their hard work saves lives and makes this depot shine."

Depot officials strive to provide a seamless transition as people prepare for deployment.

The first step is to talk to a supervisor. Once a request is approved there are suitability requirements to be met, medical and dental screenings to complete, and family support and security briefings to attend prior to departing the installation.

"It's important for people to know exactly what to expect even if some of the facts are unsettling," said Dave Hullett, Tobyhanna's Force Protection Officer. "I provide information on threats and

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Community benefits from
volunteer's hard work

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Employee gets new lease
on life

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Around the Depot
spotlights sensor branch

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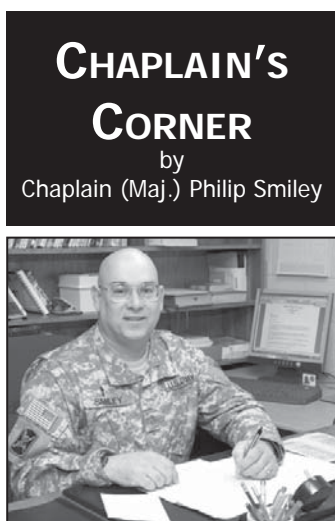
Never give up: The courage to keep on going

Have you ever put in long hours on a project; your precious blood, sweat, and tears, and then found out there was a hidden flaw, and you had to throw it in the trash? That's very discouraging, isn't it? As a wood worker, that's happened to me many times. There are often unforeseen variables that you can't factor in to your efforts, and you don't always win.

As I contemplate the meaning of life, I must conclude that life is not predictable. There are no guarantees, no absolutes; no confirmed certainties. There are victories, successes, accomplishments and progress, but there are also defeats, sad moments, unfair situations and discouragement.

Because we cannot guarantee the outcome of what we attempt, should we even try? If we do not try, we cannot fail. We could save a lot of energy and pain. Right?

What if Thomas Edison had given up on making the first light bulb, because he didn't succeed on the first few attempts? (He actually conducted over 2,000 failed



experiments before he succeeded.) What if Abraham Lincoln had given up running for public office after his first few political defeats? What if he had considered the presidency out of his reach? How different the world would have been without him in the White House. And what if Winston Church had not given his famous "Never give up..." speech to parliament, and surrendered the British Isles to Nazi Germany in World War II? The world would have a very different landscape today.

When Maj. Gen. Mazzucchi visited Tobyhanna Army Depot on June 7, he participated in an award ceremony that recognized depot employees who had made significant contributions to the organization.

In his talk, he emphasized the excellence, teamwork and great value each worker at Tobyhanna brings to the job site. To emphasize how important each effort is, he quoted Theodore Roosevelt's famous words known as "The man in the arena." It is a favorite of mine, and I have included it here to inspire us all.

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the

triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

"Citizenship in a Republic," Speech at the Sorbonne, Paris, April 23, 1910

As I reflect on my life, I see successes and failures. I see hard work and perspiration, unfair treatment and hard times, as well as recognition and appreciation. What I have experienced is true for all of us to a greater or lesser degree. Life gives us a chance to do something great. But it does not guarantee a successful ending. The great men and women became great because they took that chance, and kept at it until they got the results they desired.

I challenge us all to do the same thing. Whether it is new relationships, starting over after a failure, or keeping on keeping on, choose to stand up, wipe off the blood and mud, and step back in to the arena. Life is not fair, and often the effort hurts, but in the end, the struggle is worth the effort.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi about not giving up, and continuing the good fight of faith.

"This one thing I do: Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize..."

— Philippians 3:13,14 (KJV)

Never give up! Never give up! Never, never, ever give up!

Thomas appointed deputy to CE-LCMC commanding general

by Timothy Rider
CE-LCMC Public Affairs

Edward C. Thomas was appointed May 13 as the deputy to the commanding general of the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command (C-E LCMC), after having served in the position briefly in an acting capacity.

Thomas, who was previously director of the C-E LCMC Software Engineering Center, began his career in government service in 1974 and has progressed through increasingly responsible positions at Fort Monmouth. He was appointed to the President's Senior Executive Service in 2001.

"Ed Thomas has a great range of professional and personal qualities combined with years of experience focusing a complex enterprise on meeting warfighter needs," said Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mazzucchi, C-E LCMC commanding general. "He is an ideal person to take on the greater responsibilities of his new role."



Thomas

During his career, Thomas has earned many prestigious civilian awards and decorations, including the Senior Executive Service (SES) Presidential Rank Award (Meritorious Level), the Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Thomas earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at The College of New Jersey (Trenton State College), a Master of Business Administration degree at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

As director of the Software Engineering Center, Thomas provided state-of-the-art software products and services to the Army and the Department of Defense through a global organization of over 3,000 military, civilian, and industry employees in ten major locations with an annual budget of \$500 million.

As deputy to the commanding general, Thomas will take on significant responsibilities as one of the foremost senior leaders in the C-E LCMC, an organization operating worldwide with more than 150 Soldiers and 7,700 Army civilian employees.

THANKS

On behalf of our family, we want to thank everyone for their cards, caring thoughts, kind words and many prayers following the passing of our brother.

He was a truly special person, a loving family man with a wonderful sense of humor and a kind heart.

The days ahead are going to be difficult and we will miss him terribly, but the kindness and support of family and friends have meant a great deal to us all and will help to carry us through in the days to come.

Many thanks, once again, to every one of you.

Robyn and Jeff Metcalf

To Fellow Co-workers and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the support, kindness and comfort given to my family during the loss of my dad and Jerry's father in law.

The cards, monetary gifts, flowers and prayers will always be held close to the heart and remind us that a tremendous bunch of people work at Tobyhanna. There was never a minute when a person wasn't holding out a hand or prayer.

Words can't say it all, and thank you seems so small for all that was done. We will always remember the warmth and comfort that we felt.

Lisa and Jerry Dougher

Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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Airpower on display

Miss Mini, a Vietnam era helicopter gunship, is raised by crane with the help of depot employees to be loaded on a tractor trailer. Miss Mini has been exhibited on and off-post since 1992. The 41-year-old helicopter was refurbished by depot personnel, including several Vietnam War veterans.

The renovation consisted of repainting the gunship with its original markings, and adding sights for the armament system and the original XM21 weapons system, which consisted of rocket pods and the miniguns (Gatling guns) for which the helicopter is named. Miss Mini has also been displayed at

several locations in the local region, including the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, the Reading Regional Airport, and PNC Field, Moosic. A substantial amount of time is required to load and transport the helicopter, so it is exhibited off post only by request. (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)

Division offers training opportunities

by Thomas Holmes
Technical Development Division

The Technical Development Division (TDD) provides training opportunities in several disciplines, ranging from business writing to phased array radar systems.

This training is offered on a regular basis to all employees. However, some courses require employees to meet pre-requisites. Pre-requisite information can be obtained on the Tobyhanna Army Depot Intranet under Training Links, Toby Technical Development Division, TYAD Course Library and Training Guide.

For further information, call X56620 or X57156. Each of our training administrators specializes in different aspects of employee training. For example, Loretta Daubert coordinates leadership and

human resource training, Robert Hadley and Paul Baumes coordinate technical, non-duty developmental training and wage grade leader training. Our education technicians are Lori Giello and Lynda Paulsen.

They assist with the coordination of our non-duty development training and pay vendors for the services they provide to the depot.

We also partner with outside institutions to provide developmental opportunities for our employees. For example, ITT Technical Institute representatives will be at the depot to conduct information sessions regarding available educational programs on the following dates:

July 9, Room 205, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.;

Aug. 2, Room 206, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.;

Aug. 20, Room 206, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.. Appointments are not required. For additional information, contact

Baumes, X56599.

The deadline to identify fiscal year 2008 training courses in the Automated Individual Development Plan (A-IDP) database is July 31. Valid requirements that have not been met must be manually rolled over from 2007 to 2008. Remember, all employees are required to have an Individual Development Plan in the A-IDP database.

Contact your supervisor for assistance. The TDD point of contact is Sheryl Valentini, X56791.

Finally, TDD plans to publish a hard-copy training handbook for employees. This handbook will provide information on how to fill out DD 1556s, Request, Authorization, Agreement, Certification of Training and Reimbursement, and list regulations and policies governing training.

Look for further training updates in the *Tobyhanna Reporter*.

Depot helps local charity

The United Way of Wyoming Valley conducted its 13th annual community-wide Day of Caring (DOC) volunteer event May 10. On this day, over 1,000 community members volunteered for various service projects to benefit the United Way, participating organizations and other non-profit organizations.

The DOC was a great way to welcome spring, and the event was a huge success. This year the volunteers were given the opportunity to participate in projects such as opening-up area campsites, planting flowers, painting and helping staff with clerical tasks, landscaping, carpentry, outdoor maintenance and numerous indoor projects.

Volunteers representing numerous local businesses and 15 different sponsors worked on 89 projects. Two depot volunteers participated in the event, Mike Lombardo and Mike Parrent. This is the depot's 12th year participating in the program.

The September "Fall Day of Caring" event will kick off with a continental breakfast at Wegman's Food and Pharmacy in Wilkes-Barre.

We hope to have more volunteers for the fall event, which includes Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, and all other northeast Pennsylvania counties.

Thank you all for your support,
John Ross
Day of Caring Coordinator

A stroll around the lake lead to an intense medical journey for one depot employee.

Roy Strauss is an electronics mechanic leader in the Communications Systems Directorate. He has been employed at Tobyhanna Army Depot since 1977.

While recuperating from a carpal tunnel operation in both his hands, Roy would go on walks around Lake Scranton. During one of those walks on a sunny day in May 2003 with his wife, Dolores Strauss, Roy began to have difficulty breathing.

Roy and Dolores thought he was experiencing this problem because he was out-of-shape from the winter months. "I had hoped this was the problem," said Dolores, "but I watched Roy struggle up the slightest slope and he couldn't breathe."

Roy was scheduled for a two-week active-duty trip to Germany with the Air Force Reserves in August. "I couldn't wait to see Germany," he said. Although Roy was anticipating his trip, Dolores was worried. "We both started getting more concerned about his difficulty breathing," said Dolores.

They decided it was time to tell the family doctor that something wasn't right. Roy was referred to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center where doctors performed a catheterization, thinking that he might have an artery blockage.

After the results came back, the doctor informed Roy and Dolores that there were no blockages. "He said that some of my arteries were better than normal," said Roy.

They weren't out of the clear, though; the doctor informed the couple that his heart muscle seemed to be thicker than it should be. He attributed this to a result of Roy's routine weight lifting. While this seemed like good news, Roy and Dolores were not prepared for what was waiting around the corner.

Roy's family doctor decided to refer him to a lung specialist. The specialist took X-rays and diagnosed Roy with congestive heart failure. "Our hearts sunk when we heard the news," said Dolores.

On July 31, 2003, the day of a depot change of command ceremony, Roy left work early to travel to Mercy Hospital in Scranton to have fluid extracted from his right lung.

"I was told that it would make me feel better, but it didn't," said Roy. Afterward, his breathing became so bad that Roy was admitted to Moses Taylor Hospital. He was told that he would have to head to Geisinger Medical System in Danville because they specialized in the type of heart problem Roy had. "They told me to cancel my trip to Germany," said Roy. "I was disappointed and knew my time in the Air Force Reserves would come to an end."

In late August, a doctor at Geisinger sat with Roy and Dolores and listened to their concerns. They decided to admit Roy immediately.

The doctor suspected that Roy had amyloidosis, a rare disease that occurs when substances called amyloid proteins, which are produced by cells in bone marrow, build

"What a choice. Roy doesn't get the treatment, and he won't survive." The couple also considered the other option. "With the treatment, there are risks involved. He may not have survived the transplant; he was given a 55 percent chance of survival because of his heart condition."

Dolores Strauss

Matters of the heart

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer



Roy Strauss saved 2,200 hours of sick leave never thinking he'd have to use it to recover from a life-threatening, rare disease. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

up in the body's organs (heart, kidneys and liver). The disease will harm the organs, and that is what made Roy's heart muscle thicker, not allowing it to function properly due to being restricted. Later, Roy and Dolores found out that this was the same disease the late Gov. Robert P. Casey had.

The doctor tried to ease their minds by telling them that medical advances had been made from when Casey suffered from amyloidosis.

Roy was put in a wheelchair and taken to the cardiac unit. The whole time he kept thinking, "This is crazy. I kept in shape."

Numerous tests and a bone marrow tap confirmed that Roy had amyloidosis. About one out of 137,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with amyloidosis each year.

Not only did Roy have a rare disease, but his amyloidosis was classified as "primary," the rarest type with about one to two years life expectancy.

Roy's doctors told him that the cause for his amyloidosis was unknown. Because the disease affects organs in the body, it began to affect Roy's liver and kidneys, but

it primarily affected his heart.

By the end of September, the doctors at Geisinger in Danville decided they needed to administer chemotherapy to rid Roy's body of the affected cells and perform a stem cell transplant. First, they had to extract Roy's own stem cells from his arm, process them and purify them to prepare them for implantation." Next they gave him chemotherapy treatments, and a few weeks later he received his stem cells back.

Before any of the treatment began, Roy and Dolores were given papers to sign, accepting the treatment. "What a choice," said Dolores. "Roy doesn't get the treatment, and he won't survive." The couple also considered the other option. "With the treatment, there are risks involved," said Dolores, "He may not have survived the (stem cell) transplant; he was given a 55 percent chance of survival because of his heart condition."

"They sat me right next to his bed during the stem cell transplantation for encouragement," said Dolores.

"They encouraged me to talk about vacation spots, my hobbies, anything just to keep my spirit up," said Roy.

Because Roy underwent a rare and strenuous operation, he was weakened for a while after. "The doctor said they never operated on someone that bad," said Dolores, "but I had a positive feeling that he was going to fight through it." The Strausses were just thankful that he survived and is able to talk about his experience.

Roy's heart was only functioning at 18-22 percent of its normal capacity. In March 2004 he was referred to Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York. His doctor performed a bone marrow tap, and Roy tested negative for amyloidosis. At this point, his doctor called Geisinger and told them that all traces of the disease were gone and insisted that Roy was ready to be put on a heart transplant list.

Geisinger referred Roy to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center later that month, to see if he was a candidate to receive a heart. After three trips to Pittsburgh and receiving rejections each time, the Strausses were ready to give up. "Then in May my neurologist told me about a doctor from the [Hospital of the] University of Pennsylvania who might be interested in Roy's case," said Dolores.

They were expecting a 'no' from this visit also, but to their surprise they were given a 'yes.' "Thirty-five days later I was scheduled to receive a heart," said Roy, "and I left the hospital on the seventh day after my surgery."

Roy was going back for a biopsy once a week for a while after the surgery, but now he only goes once a month. Soon he will be going for his biopsies once every six months.

Roy had over a year of sick leave on the books, and he puts a lot of value into leave. "I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have that leave," said Roy, "I would have had to go on disability and retire." He had over 2,200 sick leave hours saved-up.

Almost a year after Roy's transplant, he was contacted by the donor's mother. She wanted to meet each recipient of her daughter's organs, but Roy and Dolores were the only ones who responded.

In August 2006 the Strausses met with the parents of the woman who donated her heart. They shared photos and stories of their 20-year-old daughter.

Roy's heart rate is now working almost normally except for a 10 minute warm-up period before he does any activity. This is because of the nerves and small blood vessels that were severed during the heart transplant. He is stable and his nutrition is good; he is almost back to normal.

Roy has many people that he is thankful for. "We're thankful to our depot family and my supervisor John Justice," says Roy. Justice is the chief of the Voice Communication Division.

"Everyone says he's a walking miracle, and we're thankful for the prayers from our co-workers and friends," says Dolores. Roy will tell you it was Dolores who never gave-up the fight for his life by saying, "She was relentless; I knew I had to make it after what she went through."

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Clockwise from left, Brian Conserette, electronics mechanic worker; Tony Charneski, electronics mechanic; Greg Delguercio, electronics mechanic; and Amy Frey, SCEP student, inventory and evaluate the AN/PSS12 Mine Detector.



Paul Kaschak (standing), electronics mechanic leader, and Eric Scott, electronics worker, repair and make final adjustments in the AN/MPN-14K radar van.



Michael Lombardo, electronics mechanic leader, does operational tests on a Battlefield Anti-Intrusion System before it is fielded.



John Wasko, electronics mechanic, prepares to ground balance the AN/PSS-14 mine detector over the simulated minefield.

Ground Control Approach Sensors Branch Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate

The branch's 31 employees perform repair, testing, overhaul, and field support on the AN/MPN-14K and AN/TSQ-71B Landing Control Central Radar Systems, the AN/TPN-18A Air Traffic Control Radar Set and associated equipment. Staff members also overhaul the AN/PPS-5D ground movement radar system and AN/PSS-12 and AN/PSS-14 mine detector systems. The branch maintains and supports the Remotely Monitored Battlefield Sensor System (REMBASS) and Battlefield Anti-Intrusion System (BAIS).



Greg Delguercio, electronics mechanic, delaminates a Circuit Card Assembly on the AN/PSS-12 Mine Detector.



Jack Jones, electronics mechanic leader, makes the final alignments before the flight check of an AN/TSQ-71B radar system.



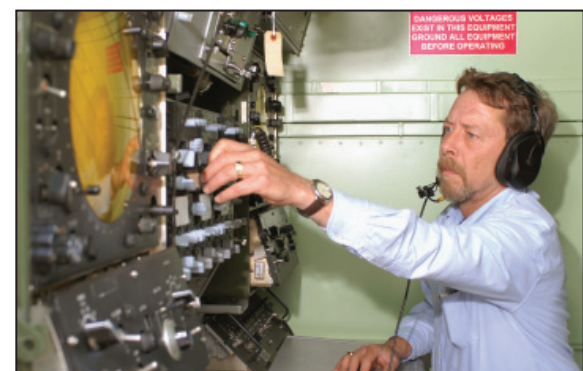
Technicians program the receiver/transmitter of the AN/PPS-5D Ground Surveillance Radar.

Equipment Specs

GCA/Sensors Branch workload includes the AN/MPN-14K and AN/TSQ-71B radar units used by air traffic controllers to identify aircraft and provide final approach guidance. The AN/PPS-5D radar detects troops and vehicles. The AN/PSS-12 metallic mine detector and AN/PSS-14 mine detector with thru wall capabilities, IREMBASS and BAIS sensors detect vehicles and troop movement.



The AN/MPN-14K Radar van mock-up is used for operational checks.



Jack Jones, electronics mechanic leader, carries out the preflight checks on the AN/TSQ-71B shelter.



Kevin Wilbur, electronics mechanic, repairs and aligns the Receiver/Transmitter on the AN/PPS-5D Radar.

Photos by Steve Grzedzinski

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sensitivities within the area of responsibility (AOR)."

In addition, everyone is required to take a Web-based survival, evasion, resistance and escape (SERE) course.

Enroute to the deployment location, volunteers spend a week at a Continental United States Replacement Center (CRC) where they receive further instructions and are issued their personal equipment. People volunteering to support the electronic countermeasures mission also attend a three-day training course to become familiar with the systems being used in theater.

There are as many reasons to deploy as there are positions to fill. For some, it's the lure of extra money, bullet statements on a resume, recognition or the desire to support the Soldiers on the front line.

"Initially my volunteering was of a selfish nature. I wanted to get into a position where I could showcase my various talents, both as a leader and as an information technology specialist," said John Brooks, Southwest Asia FRA manager, Forward Operating Base Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. "But after being here nearly three months, I realize I am part of our American history and that we're needed here.

"As civilians we fight the war on terror not with weapons, but the systems that guide the



John Brooks works long hours and endures the desert heat to support Soldiers on the front lines.

weapons and the equipment that assists in saving American lives."

Brooks is serving a 179-day deployment where his responsibilities include tracking nearly 75 people as the FRA manager and Tobyhanna FRA shop supervisor

Business as usual takes on a whole new look when working at Camp Anaconda. Adapting to the weather conditions, 12-hour days, simple living conditions, and increased workload can be stressful. Although people hardly ever leave the compound and free time is rare, there are several Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs offering leisure activities to camp residents.

"Everything here is slightly challenging: the heat, the food, the dust and dirt, and the living and working arrangements," Brooks said. "The fear of being injured and the



William Brown, left, and Robert Barbine repair computer equipment and printers in Balad, Iraq.

workload contributes to a great deal of stress. Part of my job is to help people deal with this stress and continue in their mission."

For Brooks, the most stressful aspect of the deployment is being away from family. He remarked that communication between here and there is "fair to good most of the time."

"The heat in Iraq can be alarming; it is never ending," Brooks said. "Even the wind is hot." The humidity tends to be low and if people take the proper precautions, it's tolerable. There are pallets of bottled water placed all over the compound, he explained.

Mary Katherine "Katie" Nolan recently deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait for 120 days. As a personnel specialist for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade—Southwest Asia (AFSB-SWA) S1 office, she is responsible for processing Commander's Awards for Civilian Service for all departing Department of the Army civilian personnel among other things.

"Life in the desert has treated me well, so far," Nolan said, confessing that the camp boasts all the comforts of home; however, there is very little time to enjoy them. Despite working 12-hour days, six days a week and eight hours on Sunday, the 22 year old secretary remains resolute about her decision to deploy.

Living quarters at Camp Arifjan feature a double bed, closet, desk, bookshelf, and air conditioning and heating. There are three dining facilities, plus popular U.S. fast food



Types of living quarters include consolidated housing units, which are single-person trailers.



Workers eat barbecue in the 110 degree heat.

chains that sell hamburgers, pizza, chicken and gourmet coffees, she said. In addition, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities include two movie theaters, an in-ground swimming pool, telephone lines to call home, computer/Internet access, libraries, and two fully-equipped gyms.

"I think every capable man and woman should deploy at least once," Nolan said. "It is an eye-opening and unforgettable opportunity. No matter what else I do in my lifetime, I can always say, 'I was there; I played a part in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.'"

This deployment has given a whole new meaning to the phrase "Support Our Troops," according to Nolan.

"I'm gaining first-hand knowledge of how the Forward Repair Activity shops are impacting the mission and seeing how much the Soldiers appreciate the contributions being made to keep them safe," she said.

Don Cirba is hooked on deploying. He's traveled the globe supporting various missions throughout his military and civilian career and he just started his third deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"I feel very proud to be working closely with the Soldiers in support of the war effort," said the equipment specialist, acknowledging that he gets a lot of job satisfaction from supporting Soldiers in the field.

Cirba confesses he also likes the extra money he earns while on deployment. He explained that if an individual is willing to make the sacrifice, the monetary rewards can help pay off debts like a mortgage or college tuition.

Logistical support to the FRA includes repairing computers, printers and other related equipment. Cirba's responsibilities include ordering parts, materials, shipping, receiving equipment, and maintaining inventory stocks.

Deployments are tough, according to Cirba. "You're away from family and friends for a long time and you have to put up with many inconveniences," he said. "Work keeps us very busy, however my quarters are nice and the dining facility has great food. In addition, there are organizational parties and special events to celebrate holidays."

"I have a lot of love, admiration and respect for all our Soldiers who do what they do for our country," Cirba said. "You only need to look at their [Soldiers] faces to see how much they appreciate the work Tobyhanna employees are doing in the field."

There are three Tobyhanna individuals whose performance merits recognition. Their initiative, hard work, attitude and superior performance of duties in a war zone have been outstanding.

Jim Langon - extremely motivated, excels at all tasks, takes initiative to make things happen, very bright future.

Edward Fanning - very strong dedication, expert in metal fabrication, exceptionally valuable to meeting the mission.

Raymond Reno - Exceptional initiative has greatly helped the team. Has the ability to see problems and takes action to get them corrected.

Lt. Cmdr. Paul Choate, CREW technical officer

I took the company printer to Tobyhanna to see if I could get it fixed. I explained to William Brown what the printer had been doing and that it was the company's only printer. I asked him if we could get the printer back as soon as possible. He said to give him 30 minutes and he would see what he could do to help us out. I went back in about 25 minutes and he had the printer done and ready and all cleaned up. I would like to thank him for his assistance and willingness to help us in a time of need.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Turner, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion

Thomas Kosinski, Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) project manager, Fort Monmouth, N.J., recognized the Tobyhanna Field Repair Activity, Kuwait, for its outstanding support of the LCMR program and presented certificates of appreciation and coins to James Gordon, Walter Jones, James Bzdick, Albert Falcone, and myself April 27. The certificates were signed by Lt. Col. Albert J. Visconti, radars project manager.

Vincent Zuranski, Tobyhanna FRA

I'm writing in regards to John Allen's performance and level of customer service provided during a deployment to Iraq.

His work ethic is a true testament of your organization's ability to provide critical support for our deployed soldiers in this austere environment during combat operations. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and your company.

Allen was recognized by our squadron commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Poppas, for his efforts and great service provided to Task Force 300. Without Allen's contributions, our missions could have been seriously degraded. He should be the measuring bar for the type of personnel you want representing your organization in responsibility, dedication and character.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Mock, assistant operations sergeant

CAREER MILESTONE

Six Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during the June 4 Length of Service ceremony.

David Javits, 35 years, information technology specialist, System and Database Administration Division, Information Management Directorate.

Kevin Wilkinson, 30 years, electronics measurement equipment mechanic, Army Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Support Region 1, TMDE US Activity.

John Andrejko, 30 years, mechanical engineering technician, Production Engineering Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

James Lopresti, 30 years,



Kevin Wilkinson, John Andrejko, Walter Burko, depot commander Col. Ron Alberto, Robert Meckes, James Lopresti and David Javits attend the Length of Service ceremony held June 4.

equipment specialist, Command Control and Computer (C-3) Systems/Avionics Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

Walter Burko, 30 years, electronic integrated systems mechanic, C-3 Systems Division, C-3 Systems/Avionics Directorate.

Robert Meckes, 30 years, equipment specialist, C-3/

Avionics Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, employees with 35 years of service receive an engraved mantel clock and 30-year honorees receive a framed American flag and a photo of the depot. Honorees who attend the ceremony receive a four-hour time-off award.

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Christina Anastasopoulos	Management analyst	D/PM
Peter Ankner	Painting worker	D/SIS
Theodore Carlo	Painting worker	D/SIS
Matthew Carrescia	Welding worker	D/SIS
Brett Chamberlin	Equipment specialist, electronics	D/C-3/Avionics
John Chase	Painting worker	D/SIS
Luke Chase	Painting worker	D/SIS
Christopher Cieszkowski	Electronics worker student trainee	D/CS
Daniel Combest	Equipment specialist, electronics	D/ISR
Patrick Coyer	Electronic worker	D/SIS
Jonathan Gaydos	Painting worker	D/SIS
Michael Krzak	Secretary	D/CS
David Lee	Electronics mechanic	D/C-3/Avionics
Edward Panner	Electronics mechanic	D/ISR
Roy Phillips	Painting worker	D/SIS
Richard Peperowitz	Painting worker	D/SIS
Brian Slaven	Painting worker	D/SIS
Dana Smith	Engineering draftsmen	D/PII
Jeffrey Smith	Painting worker	D/SIS
Thomas Sweeney	Management analyst	D/PM

COMMUNITY BULLETIN


Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline. Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.


**VAN/CAR POOLS**

- **Scranton West side, Moosic St., Southside:** 1 opening, available in August, "A" placard, 5/4/9, house-to-house pick up, runs on both Fridays, call Ed Vidota, X56883.
- **Factoryville, Dalton, Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 5/4/9, call Richard Pomicter, X59343.
- **Kingston, Edwardsville:** 1 opening, van, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift, 7 passengers, non-smoking, meets at Price Chopper/West side mall, call John Stochla, X58793 or Wayne Watkins, X58642.
- **Factoryville, LaPlume, Dalton, Clarks Summit:** 1 opening available July 1, van, 7 passengers, "A" placard, 5/4/9, non-smoking, call Tom Talarico, X57081.
- **Avoca, Duryea, Moosic:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, "A" placard, 5/4/9, call Paul, X57431.
- **Taylor, West side, Moosic Street area:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, non-smoking, house-to-house pick up, call Joe Manley, X56839 or X56840.
- **Scranton West side:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, "A" placard, 5/4/9, non-smoking, house-to-house pick up, call Ron Hazlett, X59646 or Al Jones, X56176.
- **Jim Thorpe:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, contact Frank Lauth at frank.lauth@conus.army.mil.
- **Wilkes-Barre:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, runs every Friday, leaves the Sam's Club parking lot at 6 a.m., contact Richard Shermanski, X57998 or richard.shermsanski@conus.army.mil.
- **Nanticoke, Wilkes-Barre, Dunmore:** 1 opening, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, non-smoking, call Chris, X58640.

- **Back Mountain, Kingston, Swoyersville:** 2 openings, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, non-smoking, call Chris Antall, X59088.
- **Back Mountain west side:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, meets at Luzern Shopping Center, call Walt Bobeck, X57607.
- **Wilkes-Barre:** 2 openings, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift, leaves park and ride (Route 309) across from McDonalds at 5:40 a.m., call Ray Tarnowski, X57331 or 736-6383.
- **Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** Accepting names for waiting list, 7 passengers, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, call Bob Redinski, X59184, or send an e-mail.
- **Archbald, Jessup, Dunmore:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, non-smoking, "A" placard, shared driving, pickup points are St. Thomas, Cousins, Park and Ride, and the Holiday Inn, contact Mike, X56550, or mike.chapman@us.army.mil.
- **Plains, Pittston:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 5/4/9, van, non-smoking, house pickup in Plains or Pittston park and ride, call Steve, X59694 or Alex, X56232.
- **Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, Dalton, Waverly:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, "A" placard, last stop Mr. Zs in Waverly off Exit 81, call Thomas Zinram, X58736.
- **Lehigh Valley, Wind Gap:** 1 opening, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, pickup at Fullerton Ave. and Route 22 in Lehigh Valley, and pickup on Routes 512 and 33 in the Wind Gap Country Junction lot, call Lawrence Plunkett, X58556.
- **Mid-Valley area:** New van, 5 openings, non-smoking, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., pickup at Jessup park and ride and Dunmore Holiday Inn, call Steve, X58815 or Yvette, X56992.
- **Archbald, Jessup:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, 7 passengers, van, call Bryan, X58544.
- **Drums, White Haven area:** 2 openings, non-smoking, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., "A" placard, call Linda, X58658.
- **Wilkes-Barre:** 1 opening, available in June, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, non-smoking, leaves Sam's Club at 5:45 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m., call John Alden, X58640 or send e-mail; also willing to restart 15 passenger van with commitment of 5 to 7 new passengers.
- **Honesdale:** Want to start a van pool, 5/4/9, call Brian, X8754.
- **Taylor, Old Forge, Minooka:** 2 openings, non-smoking, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., "A" placard, call Mike, X57784 or Dave, X57420.
- **Mountain Top, White Haven:** 2 openings, van, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., non-smoking, call Janet, X57532 or Bill X56484.
- **Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, pickup in Clarks Summit with possibility of pickup at the Viewmont Mall,

Holiday Inn on Tigue Street or anywhere between off I-81, contact Louis Borgia, X59948 or louis.borgia@us.army.mil or Albert Fagerlin, X56227 or albert.fagerlin@us.army.mil.

- **Wilkes-Barre, Back Mountain, Kingston, Pittston:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 5/4/9, van, 7 passengers, non-smoking, starts Route 309 in Shavertown, call Jim, X58693.
- **Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, New Jersey, Bangor and Mt. Bethel:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, call John, X58751.
- **Brodheadsville, Saylorsburg, Effort, Blakeslee:** Individual would like to start or join a van pool, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift, call Brian, X57516.
- **Route 80, Western N.J area:** Individual would like to start a van/car pool, call Robin, X57345.
- **Berwick, Nescopeck, Conyngham:** 6 seats, non-smoking, 5/4/9, can run every Friday, call Erin Priestman, X59779.

**TRADING POST**

- **Trailer:** 14x70, 3 bedrooms, set up in clean, quiet park in Spring Brook, asking \$18,000 OBO, call 842-3577 or 335-0079.
- **House:** Arrowhead Lakes, 3,200 sq. ft., fireplace, full basement, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances plus pool table is included, built in 2005, 8-year warranty left on house, 4 blocks from pool and beach, call Deborah Audett, 888-737-8447.
- **Dining room table:** table is 42x64, extra leaf, glass top, 2 captain chairs, 4 regular chairs, asking \$550, call Linda, 895-7607.
- **Miscellaneous items:** Westinghouse microwave, \$30; wedding gown, ivory, size 8 (altered), \$100; Corelle dishes, white with blue flowers, setting for 8, \$25, and antique dish sets, blue flowers, \$35, and maroon with flowers, \$45, call 876-8052 after 6 p.m.
- **Pool heater:** Hayward, propane, 150,000 Btu, model H150, used once, like new, all hose connections, works with above- and in-ground pools and spas, purchase price was \$1,000, asking \$650, call Darlene, 894-4912.
- **Lakeview lot for sale:** Fawn Lake Forest, Lackawaxen, ¾ acre, located on level, paved, private road, full lake rights, access to indoor and outdoor pools, clubhouse, beaches, tennis courts, outdoor ice skating, minutes from ski resorts and Lake Wallenpaupack, \$17,000, call 499-1540.

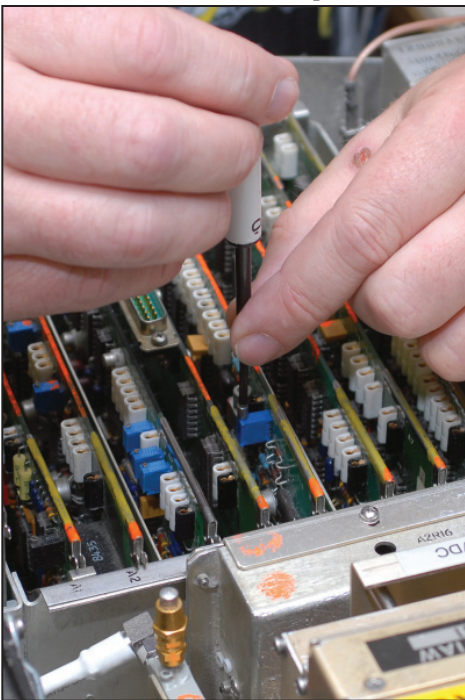
Technicians overhaul AF navigation system

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer

A team of six electronics mechanics will set a record when they overhaul eight air navigation systems by the end of the fiscal year.

"This is an all time high for Tobyhanna Army Depot in the number of systems overhauled in a fiscal year," said Christopher Flint, chief of the Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATCALS) Division.

The technicians overhauling the



Electronics mechanics are overhauling Air Force AN/FRN-45 air navigation systems. They will complete an all time high number of systems overhauled in a fiscal year.

19-year-old AN/FRN-45 Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) systems work in the Meteorological/Navigational Aids Branch, which is part of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's ATCALS Division.

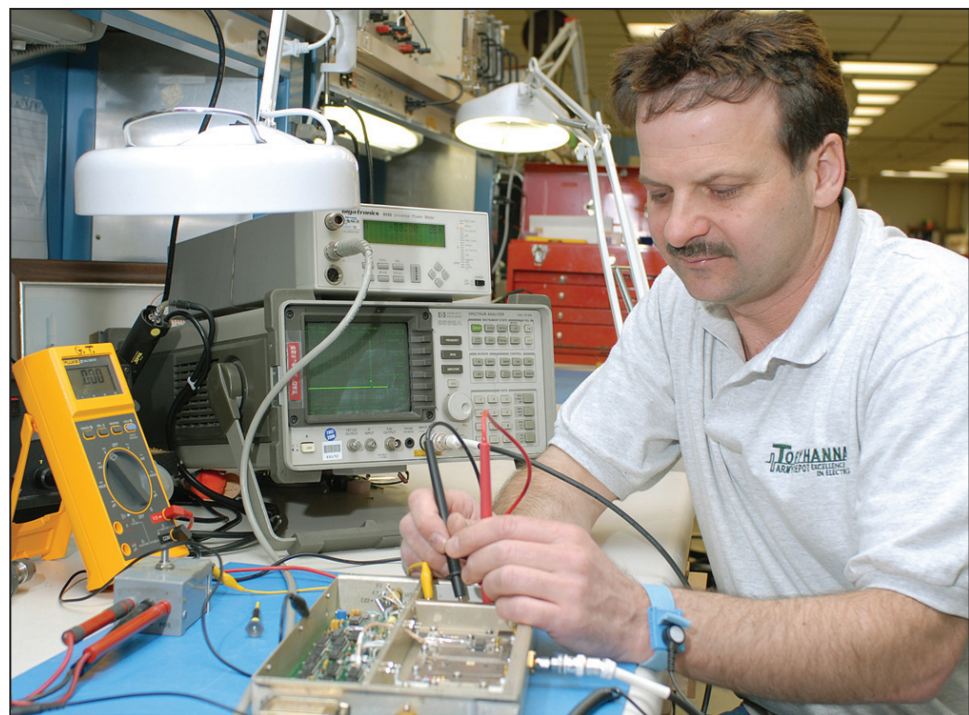
The TACAN System is an Air Force multi-channel transponder designed to guide planes as they land. When the system is installed in an aircraft, it transmits signals to a TACAN on the ground.

The TACAN system includes components such as a transponder and radio frequency amplifier, radio frequency monitor, personal computer (PC), power supply and a control indicator. The TACAN system works by providing bearing and distance to aircraft for up to 200 nautical miles (230 land miles) from the ground TACAN. The TACAN system measures the distance (or range) by measuring the time between the signal sent out and the reply back.

Fielded in 1988 by the Air Force, these systems have been repaired at the depot since 1999 when the mission was transferred from Sacramento Air Logistics Center at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. "It's an important Air Force system that has developed into a substantial workload," says Branch Chief Bill Chupko.

One of the missions of the Meteorological/Navigational Aids Branch is to repair and overhaul the complete TACAN system.

The team consists of electronic integrated systems mechanics Jay Wentland (team lead) and Ron Williams aided by



George Tokash tests an AN/FRN-45 transponder's frequency synthesizer. The FRN-45 is a tactical air navigation system used to guide aircraft when landing. Tokash is an electronics mechanic in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate. (Photos by Steve Grzedzinski)

in the past two years, and plans to have a total of 12 completed by the end of September.

Wentland states that "each system is unique," which has created a few challenges for the team. "At first, you don't know what you're getting into," says Wentland.

When the team receives a TACAN system, they follow a strict procedure laid out in the Air Force's work specification, a 12-page document used to inspect the final product.

72 hours, the Air Force is contacted and they send a representative to the depot to inspect the finished product. The Air Force representative will use the work specification document and a Depot Technical Reference Order (TRO) to assess and test the TACAN system. If the system passes this mechanical and operational inspection, it will be stored until the Air Force can issue it to the receiving base. "We have always received positive feedback on our sell off of completed systems," said Chupko.

Employees urged to review mission roles for Shingo visit

by Don Engel
Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate

Tobyhanna Army Depot will receive a Shingo Prize site visit for the AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder Antenna Transceiver Group (ATG). A team of four Examiners from both private and public sector will conduct a two day site visit June 26-27.

The AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder ATG is overhauled in the AN/TPQ-36 Systems Branch of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Firefinder Division.

Examiners will tour and review the entire AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder ATG Value Stream, from receipt of assets through the repair process. Review and tour will include the prime shop in Building 1C Bay 6, as well as industrial support processes in Building 9, Building



3 Bay 4 (sheet metal repair), Building 14, (Trailer Safety Check), Munson Road Testing, Building 3005 (Modular Azimuth Positioning System) and Building 3006 (Tower Track Testing), to final acceptance testing and preparation for shipment.

Examiners will meet with shop personnel to review depot processes and knowledge of Lean tools. Primary emphasis will be placed on the documented value stream map, how waste from the process is identified and eliminated, and standardization employed in the processes to eliminate variation.

Another key area of examiner emphasis for all personnel will be takt time. Takt time is available time divided by customer demand. The takt time for the AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder ATG is 16 hours. This translates to the rate at which Tobyhanna must produce a finished ATG to meet the customer monthly demand.

Other Lean tools that examiners will ask about are combination sheets, bar charts, standard work and visual management. Employees, contractors, leaders and managers need to be familiar with these tools. They are posted in the work area.

Employees also need to be aware of their role in the value stream, their immediate upstream and downstream customers (i.e., who sends the work and who gets the finished work), and how any variation in the repair process is communicated/documented. These process issues need to be documented on the area Production Control Boards.

Examples of typical Shingo examiner questions:

- What is the takt time for the system? Takt time for each workstation?

- What triggers are used to maintain flow in the support shops?

- Do you have a Standard Work document for your process and is it being followed by the employees? Is it posted/readily available to the employees?

- When are the Production Control Boards updated? Who updates them? What is their purpose?

- How do you know how much work you need to perform today?

- How do you know if you are on schedule with your overall production?

- How could you as an operator improve your process?

- How do you maintain 6S improvements in your area?

Individual Examiners will also review processes in key support activities from Human Resources, Production Management, Quality, Engineering, Resource Management, Environmental Management, Business Management and the Union.

In addition, Examiners may also meet with Star Points (e.g., Directorate, Division and Branch level) and other employees to review key process metrics. Leaders and managers at every level involved in supporting the AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder ATG may also be asked questions about the depot's strategy for future improvements.

Upon completion of the site visit, Tobyhanna will receive a detailed feedback report in August analyzing the depot's strengths and areas for improvement in each of the 11 criteria elements, as well as the overall final score.

The final score will determine eligibility for a Shingo Prize award within the four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze.